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Doctors Do It Too- Google for Diagnostic Information

From the Study's abstract:

Objective: To determine how often searching with Google (the most popular search engine on the world wide web) leads doctors to the correct diagnosis.

Design: Internet based study using Google to search for diagnoses; researchers were blind to the correct diagnoses.

Setting: One year's (2005) diagnostic cases published in the case records of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Cases: 26 cases from the New England Journal of Medicine; management cases were excluded.

Main outcome measure: Percentage of correct diagnoses from Google searches (compared with the diagnoses as published in the New England Journal of Medicine).

Results: Google searches revealed the correct diagnosis in 15 (58%, 95% confidence interval 38% to 77%) cases.

Conclusion: As internet access becomes more readily available in outpatient clinics and hospital wards, the web is rapidly becoming an important clinical tool for doctors. The use of web based searching may help doctors to diagnose difficult cases.

Full Text of the Study Available at : <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/rapidpdf/bmj.39003.640567.AEv1>

News Article on the Study available at:

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/doctors-googling-medical-answers/2006/11/10/1162661899424.html>

New Research- FDA Drug Classifications and Health Care Expenditures

From the Paper's Abstract:

“This paper contributes to the growing literature regarding the impact of priority drugs on medical costs. There is a conflict among researchers about the benefits and costs of newer and better drugs. Lichtenberg (2001, 2002) find out that newer drugs cost more, but their use reduces non-drug expenditures by more than the increase in drug costs. Duggan (2005) finds in contrast that newer antipsychotics do not result in substantial cost savings. In this study, we offered a better methodology by incorporating both the quality and the age of the drugs to capture their effects on total health care expenditures.”

Full Text of Document Available at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=943752

Clinical Information Technology Gaps Persist Among Physicians

From the Study's Abstract:

Physicians in smaller practices continue to lag well behind physicians in larger practices in reporting the availability of clinical information technology (IT) in their offices, according to a new national study from the Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC). The proportion of physicians reporting access to IT for each of five clinical activities increased across all practice settings between 2000-01 and 2004-05. Adoption gaps between small and large practices persisted, however, for two of the clinical activities—obtaining treatment guidelines and exchanging clinical data with other physicians—and widened for the other three—accessing patient notes, generating preventive care reminders and writing prescriptions. In contrast, clinical IT was generally as likely or more likely to be available to physicians in practices treating larger proportions of vulnerable and underserved patients as other physicians, a pattern that did not change between the two periods.

Available at: <http://www.hschange.org/CONTENT/891/>

Scirus and CrossRef Announce Web Services Partnership

From the Press Release:

Elsevier has announced that [Scirus](#), its free, science-specific search engine, has signed an agreement with [CrossRef](#), the cross-publisher linking network with over 2200 participating publishers and societies, to become a Web Services Search Partner. The partnership allows Scirus to collect metadata from hundreds of participating publishers via CrossRef's new Web Services protocol. This combined approach improves how researchers, academics, students, and librarians search authoritative, scientific published content.

Available at: http://www.info.scirus.com/news/inthenews/archive_pr/2006/24_oct_06.htm

Happy 35th Birthday, MEDLINE, and Happy 10th Birthday to PubMed

Learn about the origins and history of MEDLINE and PubMed as they have developed throughout the years with these press releases from the National Library of Medicine:

MEDLINE: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/medline_35th_birthday.html

PubMed: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/so06/so06_pm_10.html

New HPD Library Resource: Audio Digest Podcasts

The HPD Library has started a new subscription to the Audio Digests, a service of the Audio Digest Foundation. The Audio Digests are downloadable lectures/discussions on various topics within Family Practice, Emergency Medicine, and Internal Medicine disciplines. Each lecture or discussion is accompanied by an abstract or summary of the program. New "issues" are released bi-weekly, and each issue usually contains one lecture. All of these issues are now available for download into your portable PDA or Palm device in MP3 Format, along with PDF versions of the program summaries.

Available at : <http://www.nova.edu/hpdlibrary/> and select [HPD Library Audio-Digest Podcast](#)

